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extremity of the Victoria Nyanza. A recent number of the *Church Missionary Intelligencer* gives an account by the Rev. C. T. Wilson of his voyage across the great lake from Uganda to Kagei. South of the Kagera or Kitangule river the low forest-covered shore gives place to high downs ending in abrupt precipices 300 or 400 feet high. North of the Kagera the rocks are mostly a hard conglomerate, the matrix being a clay iron ore, in which quartzite pebbles were imbedded, but on the south they are clay slate with red sandstone, the strata being inclined in a westerly direction at an angle of about fifteen degrees.

The American Board of Foreign Missions having recently received a large bequest, is desirous of establishing a mission in Africa, but finds nearly every portion of the coast occupied or at least prospected! They will probably choose a site in the interior where certainly there can be no difficulty in finding an unoccupied field.

The King of the Belgians has presented the International African Association with four Indian elephants. They have arrived safely at Zanzibar from Bombay, and have been landed near Dar-es-Salaam. An elephant will convey fifteen ordinary porters' loads of sixty pounds each, so that seven elephants would be able to carry as much as one hundred porters.

OBITUARY.—The following appeared in the London *Athenæum* of August 9, 1879: "Mr. Keith Johnston is no more. A son of the eminent geographer, Alexander Keith Johnston, the deceased gave early promise of fulfilling to the utmost the expectations of his friends. Carefully trained under the eye of his father and at Perthes's Geographical Institute under Dr. Petermann, he exhibited equal skill as a compiler of maps and a writer on geographical subjects. Amongst his latest works are a volume on 'Africa,' recently published by Mr. Stanford, and a 'Book of Physical Geography,' intended for the use of schools. An expedition to Paraguay showed that he also possessed the qualities demanded of a geographical explorer, and the work then done by him fully justified the choice of the Royal Geographical Society when they placed him at the head of an expedition intended to explore the country between Dar-es-Salaam and lake Nyassa. His report on a preliminary trip to Usambara gave promise of an exhaustive and trustworthy account of his further researches, such as is but rarely furnished by African 'pathfinders.' It was not to be. Still a young man, not yet thirty, he has joined that band of noble men who have laid down their lives in the cause of African exploration."

MICROSCOPY.¹

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MICROSCOPISTS.—This society assembled in Buffalo on Tuesday morning, August 19th, and adjourned on Friday noon, the 22d. About sixty members were in attendance.

¹ This department is edited by Dr. R. H. WARD, Troy, N. Y.

Important amendments were agreed upon to the proposed Constitution, and it was then adopted without opposition. At the suggestion of the National Committee on Micrometry, last year's resolution favoring the one-hundredth millimetre as the unit for micrometry was reconsidered, and the whole subject was then referred to the committee for further action. Mr. E. H. Griffith offered a silver medal as a prize, to be awarded at the next annual meeting, for the best two slides illustrating the adulteration of some common article of food. On Thursday evening a soirée was held in St. James Hall, which was well attended by the citizens of Buffalo. The following officers were elected for next year's meeting: President, Prof. H. L. Smith, of Geneva, N. Y.; vice-presidents, Dr. W. W. Butterfield, of Indianapolis, and Mr. C. C. Merriman, of Rochester; secretary, Prof. A. H. Tuttle, of Columbus, O.; treasurer, Mr. George A. Fell, of Buffalo. The day and place for the next meeting were left to be selected and announced by the Executive Committee. The president's address was delivered on Tuesday evening by Dr. R. H. Ward, in St. James Hall. During the week the following papers were read: On *Lernæocera cruciata*, and also on certain crustaceous parasites on fish, by Prof. D. S. Kellicott; on the structure of the spinal cord in the marsipobranch fishes, by Prof. A. H. Tuttle; on the embryonic growth of the eustachian tube and middle ear, by Dr. Lucien Howe; on photography as an aid to microscopical investigations, by Dr. Carl Seiler; on Modern object glasses, and on a universal microscope stand, by Prof. J. E. Smith; on the systematic examination of objectives for the microscope, by Dr. G. E. Blackham; on the Preparation and mounting of double stainings, by Mr. C. C. Merriman; on the Microscopical examination of the nerve centres, by Dr. Theo. Deecke; on the Microscopical work at the Department of Agriculture, by Thos. Taylor; on the Destructive powers of certain insects, by Mr. C. M. Vorce; on Microscopical organisms in drinking water, by Prof. S. A. Lattimore; and on the Illumination of fine rulings, by Dr. W. B. Rezner. After adjournment the few members who were able to remain for that purpose, enjoyed a most agreeable excursion to Niagara Falls as the guests of the citizens of Buffalo, of whom many of the most cultivated and accomplished accompanied the party.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.—This great society held one of its most successful meetings at Saratoga Springs during the week commencing August 27th, under the presidency of Prof. Geo. F. Barker. More than one hundred and fifty papers were presented, many of them being of exceptional value. Among those pertaining to microscopy may be mentioned those on the Physics of microscope objectives, by Romyn Hitchcock; on the Histology of insects, by Chas. S. Minot; on a Standard meter and its subdivisions into equal parts,

and on First results from a new diffraction ruling engine, by Prof. Wm. A. Rogers; on Crystallization of Canada Balsam, by Prof. Geo. F. Barker; on the Occurrence of microscopic crystals in the vertebra of the toad, by Prof. H. Carrington Bolton. Prof. S. A. Lattimore was elected chairman, and Rev. A. B. Hervey, secretary of the sub-section of microscopy for the next meeting, which is to be held in Boston, commencing on the last Wednesday in August next, and which can hardly fail to be a large and enthusiastic assemblage.

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PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE, Twenty-eighth meeting, Saratoga, Aug. 27 to Sept. 2, 1879.—Owing to the favorable place of meeting, the gathering of members was larger than for several years, nearly 260 members being present, and 154 papers, some of unusual interest, having been entered. Prof. O. C. Marsh, president of the St. Louis meeting, read an address as retiring president, on the History and Methods of Palæontology. Prof. George F. Barker, as president, made a brief introductory speech at the opening of the session. The following papers on biology, geology and anthropology were presented:

The succession of glacial deposits in New England.....	Warren Upham
On the thinning out and absence of the Upper Silurian and Devonian formations in Tennessee. On a remarkable crinoidal form recently discovered in Tennessee, with exhibition of specimens.....	J. M. Safford
Recently discovered cupreous veins at Blue Hill, Me. The Green mountain anticlinal.....	C. H. Hitchcock
Consonantal expression of emotion.....	Clarence J. Blake
On the fertilization of Yucca. Objects of sex and of odor in flowers.....	Thomas Meehan
Philosophy of the pupation of butterflies, and particularly of the Nymphalidæ. The cotton worm in the United States; explanation of its work, and mooted points in its habits cleared up.....	C. V. Riley
On the conditions to be fulfilled by a theory of life. On the histology of insects. On the anatomy of Plathelminthes..	Chas. Sedgwick Minot
A short biography of the Menhaden.....	G. Brown Goode
Practical illustration of the use of some new or little known anatomical and physiological instruments and apparatus. Notes on the anatomy of the cat's brain. On a cat's brain with the corpus callosum absent.....	B. G. Wilder
On the occurrence of microscopic crystals in the vertebra of the toad (<i>Bufo americanus</i>). [With a note by A. A. Julien.].....	H. Carrington Bolton.
The ethnical influences of physical geography.....	Danl. Wilson
The development of the neuration in the wings of insects, as illustrated in the history of cockroaches.....	S. H. Scudder
On graphite from the Ducktown copper mine.....	W. L. Dudley
On the geology of Bermuda.....	Wm. North Rice
Sexual differentiation in <i>Epigæa repens</i> . Homologies in the Lauracæa. Note on the movement of the stamens of <i>Sabbatia angularis</i>	Lester F. Ward
On the Triassic rocks of New Jersey.....	Geo. H. Cook